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City Life

Group Won't Fight Soviet Embassy Site

The D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations announced yesterday that it won't dispute the latest plan to relocate the Russian Embassy.

John Immer, Federation president, said he has taken a poll of member associations and found no objection to a proposal that the Soviet Embassy move to the Tregaron estate on Macomb Street nw.

Immer, who headed a fight in 1964 against the Russians locating elsewhere in Northwest, said the Federation now also supports the move of five other embassies to a site near Ward Circle.

"Basically, we're still opposed to chanceries in residential neighborhoods," Immer said, "but we think chanceries are much better than the high-rise or other construction that would probably come in."

Tregaron, once owned by the late Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. Joseph E. Davies, covers some 20 acres in the 3100 block of Macomb Street. The Chinese Embassy is on one side and the other sides are parkland.

"What concerns us," said Immer, "is preserving the parklike quality of the area."

sites and vacant land on which the public housing units were built.

Mt. Alto Site Brings Moscow Offer for New U.S. Embassy

By Carl Bernstein
 Washington Post Staff Writer

The State Department announced yesterday it had sent a study team to Moscow to evaluate a Soviet offer for a new American embassy site.

The Russian offer, Department sources said, is based on State's proposal to give the Soviet government a long-term lease on the site of the old Mt. Alto Veterans Hospital here for use as an embassy and chancery.

The study team's presence in Moscow was disclosed in the Department's response to an offer to sell the Washington estate of the late Joseph E. Davies for use as a Soviet embassy-chancery.

A State Department spokes-

man said that United States officials "plan to study" the offer of Davies' 20.5-acre estate, Tregaron, which has a price tag of \$3.5 million.

Department sources said the Mt. Alto offer was made to the Russians in preference to other sites.

A State Department spokesman said the objective in finding a new Soviet embassy site is "to solve this chronic problem on terms most advantageous to the United States government and in harmony with the interests of the people of the District of Columbia."

Department sources said earlier this week that surveys of Cleveland Park residents who live near Tregaron indicated heavy opposition to any plan to use the estate as a Russian embassy-chancery.

Similar polling of Glover Park apartment dwellers near Mt. Alto evoked little opposition to the embassy proposal, the sources said.

The Moscow property offered by the Soviets is within several blocks of the present American embassy there.

A Department spokesman said the Mt. Alto offer was based on receiving "a similar lease on comparable property in Moscow."

Sources said the Russian offer might present some problems because the proposed embassy site in Moscow is in a somewhat underdeveloped area of the city.

However, they said the Russians have assured the Department that the area is in a part of the Soviet Capital that is

Russians Are Coming!

All this to-do about the site of the new Soviet Embassy! I was surprised to read that the good (and presumably enlightened) citizens of Cleveland Park have strong objections to having the Russians near them. I thought that sort of reaction was behind us. For my part, I wish they would set up shop near me, here in Georgetown; then, with all the surveillance and counter-surveillance that surely would go on, I would at last feel safe to walk in my own neighborhood, day or night.

HARRIET DOUTY.
 Washington.